

BOROUGH OF CALNE

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

~ 1953 ~



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SANITARY INSPECTOR.

T.V. Oliver, M.L. Mun.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor

(c) The two Committees of the Town Council dealing directly with Public Health matters are:-

(i) Public Health, Housing and Town Planning
Committee

and

(ii) Water & Sewerage Committee.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1953.

There was little infectious disease during the year apart from an outbreak of Measles and a case of Poliomyelitis. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

The death rate was remarkably low, and the causes of death were as usual Coronary Disease and Heart Disease.

A Birth Rate of 15.1 per 1000 of the population and an Infantile Mortality Rate of 10.9 per 1000 live births are very satisfactory.

The demand for beds in Isolation Hospitals for infectious cases is steadily diminishing, making this type of hospital available for the treatment and nursing of other forms of illness. This general freedom from infectious disease, however, requires constant vigilance and is in measure due to the activities of Local Authorities and Health Officers in the past, i.e. previous preventive measures in the public health field are now paying a dividend.

No food poisoning occurred during the year. This freedom from infection could be maintained provided adequate personal hygiene was practised by all, both in the home and at places of employment. Education in the school of this rudimentary principle would diminish the need for the propaganda which is at present necessary.

The total number of persons suffering from tuberculosis shows an increase compared with the year 1952. This is not due entirely to new cases arising but to some extent is due to an increase in the number of previously notified patients arriving in the Borough.

Increase in the expectation of life gives an opportunity for the study of the causes of Cancer and disease of the circulation as these principally belong to the latter part of life. However, if the Local Authority is to play any part in the study of the causes of disease, other than infectious disease, information will be needed on the incidence of the other forms of illness and disability necessitating attendance at a General Practitioner's Surgery or admission to hospital. Birth & Death Rates, the causes of death and the incidence of infectious disease constitute the only statistical information received at present with the exception of weekly and quarterly numerical returns from the Registrar General in respect of the country as a whole.

The various Ministries of the Central Government all issue from time to time new legislation dealing with the health of the population, and reference is made in the report to new legislation pertaining to health which became operative during 1953. Much of the practical application and implementation of this legislation becomes the responsibility of the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector thereby adding to his already heavy commitments.

I am grateful to Mr. Oliver and the Staff of the Borough Council for their help in compiling this report.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 1276
 Population 6003
 Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953 according
 to the Rate Book) 1868
 Rateable Value (at 1st. April, 1953). £36,876
 Sum represented by Penny Rate £143.17.4.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	48	43	91
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total Live Births	48	43	91

Birth Rate for the Borough 15.1 per
 1000 of the
 population.
 Comparative Rate for England & Wales 15.5 per
 1000 of the
 population.

The Birth Rate for the Borough and the Comparative
 Rate for England & Wales show little change over the year
 1952.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total Still Births	2	1	3

Rate per 1000 of the population. 0.49
 Comparative Rate per 1000 of the population
 for England & Wales 0.35

Although there is no change in the Comparative Rate
 for England & Wales, the Rate for the Borough has risen
 slightly as compared with that for 1952 which was 0.17
 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u> 31	<u>Female</u> 29	<u>Total</u> 60
Death Rate for the Borough			9.9 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales			11.4 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate for the Borough is lower this year as compared with 1952 when the rate was 11.6 per 1000 of the population. On the other hand the Comparative Rate for England & Wales for 1953 shows a minimal increase as compared with the previous year when it was 11.3 per 1000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm Breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	4	6
Coronary disease angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	8	7	15
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other diseases of resp. system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth & abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
Total all causes	31	29	60

From the above it will be noted that Heart Disease and Coronary disease continue to contribute largely to the causes of death.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rates:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1000 live births.10.9

Comparative rate for England & Wales
per 1000 related live births26.8

Table "B"

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1953 as compared with the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

DISEASE	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	5	5	1	1	11	11	1	1	4	4
Whooping Cough	6	6	24	24	39	39	52	52	52	52
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	105	105	-	-	46	46	2	2	199	199
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	2
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	119	119	28	28	98	98	61	61	261	260

"a" - Numbers originally notified

"b" - Final numbers after correction.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles which occurred during the first quarter of the year, notifications in respect of other notifiable diseases were negligible.

The case of Diphtheria, the first notified for several years, was not confirmed.

The case of Poliomyelitis which was confirmed as the paralytic type was removed to Isolation Hospital, and full precautions taken to prevent spread of infection.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Distribution according to Age
Notifications received during 1953 - Corrected Figures.

	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Age unknown	TOTAL
DISEASE									
Scarlet Fever	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	12	34	5	-	1	-	-	-	52
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	104	88	1	2	-	-	-	199
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	16	141	97	1	5	-	-	-	260

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows new cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during 1953 together with comparative figures for the years 1948 to 1952.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	4	-	4
1949	-	-	-
1950	2	-	2
1951	4	-	4
1952	4	-	4
1953	4	-	4

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1953 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESP.		NON-RESP.		RESP.		NON-RESP.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5		1						
15								
25								
35	2	1						
45								
55								
65 upwards.								
TOTALS;-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cases of respiratory tuberculosis remain fairly constant as compared with previous years, but it should be borne in mind that the above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from this disease living within the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the Borough, or move out. Remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1953 were the following cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	12	12	24
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4
Total:-	14	14	28

LEGISLATION.

During the year under review the following legislation relating to public health came into operation.

1. The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1953.

These Regulations which came into force on the 1st. April, supercede the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927 and the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations, 1927. The general substance and form of the new regulations are similar to the old, in that they require notification of Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Primary Pneumonia and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, but in addition, Local Authorities are now empowered to take action against the risk of food poisoning in cases of typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever and other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning. The regulations provide for action to be taken not only with regard to a person suffering from the disease, but also a person shown to be a carrier of the disease, thus such persons may not only be prevented from continuing to work in an occupation connected with food or drink, but also from entering such an occupation. A copy of the regulations were sent to all medical practitioners practising in the Borough.

2. The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These regulations came into force on the 20th. December, 1953 and require that as from the 1st. October, 1954 containers of pasteurised milk must be provided with over-lapping caps, and permits the sterilisation of milk in cans or other suitable containers as well as in bottles.

3. The Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These amendment regulations which came into force on the 27th. December, 1953 exclude from the registration requirements of the principal regulations, persons who sell cream in the hermetically sealed containers in which it is delivered to the premises and who are not otherwise distributors of milk.

4. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

This Act, which came into force on the 14th. July, 1953 provides, inter alia, for the making of Closing Orders in respect of certain buildings hitherto required to be demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and also provides for the revocation of a Demolition Order and the making of a Closing Order on the property in lieu thereof.

In addition to the new Public Health Legislation laid before Parliament during the year, various circulars, memoranda and Orders have been issued by the Ministries of Health & Food on matters pertaining to health covered by the existing Public Health Acts.

Impending Legislation which may possibly come into force during 1954 include a new Food & Drugs Act, Slaughterhouse Act and a Housing Act.

During the preparation of this report the following Circulars and Memorandum have been received.

LEGISLATION (Continued)

SLUM CLEARANCE.

A Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stresses that Local Authorities should now take up as a matter of urgency, the campaign of Slum Clearance which the War interrupted. This is a matter which will require careful thought and planning during the forthcoming year.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

A Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health on the prevention of this disease, mentions, inter alia, that the rapid decline in the death rate from tuberculosis in recent years has not been accompanied by a corresponding decline in notifications, and that this indicates a need for intensifying various preventive measures.

Under existing legislation, the County Council, the District Council and the Regional Hospital Board are collectively responsible for the treatment and after-care of the tuberculous patient. The prevention of this disease also rests with this "tripartite" body; the main function of the District Council being to ensure that the tuberculous patient and his family are adequately housed.

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No statutory action was taken during the year under the provisions of this Act.

FOOD & DRUGS.

CLEAN CATERING. - A Circular (MF 16/53) dated 11 September, 1953 from the Ministry of Food drew the Council's attention to a booklet entitled "Clean Catering". This contained practical advice on securing and maintaining the highest possible standards of hygiene in Catering Establishments.

A copy of this publication was sent to the Catering, Bakery and Grocery establishments in the town in the hope that the advice given therein would be beneficial to the trade, especially in connection with alteration, redecoration or re-equipping of the premises concerned.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. - From time to time complaints are received concerning fish mortality in the River Marden. The most serious complaint was received in September, 1953.

The sewage works are now unable to deal with the large quantities of domestic sewage and trade waste arriving for treatment. A scheme to increase the capacity of the Works and also to treat the large amount of sludge produced is being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for approval by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1953.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>
37	20	4
<u>Total:- 61</u>		

Total immunised child population as at 31. XII. 53.

<u>Ages 0 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
275	866	1141

VACCINATION.

The following children were vaccinated during 1953:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 14</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 15</u>
50	1	6
<u>Total:- 57</u>		

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT

- 1953 -

Rainfall

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day. From this information the following table has been compiled:-

MONTH	TOTAL RAINFALL INCHES	GREATEST FALL IN 24 HOURS	NO. OF DAYS WITH .01 OR MORE RECORD- ED.
January	.68	.29 (5th)	7
February	1.54	.50 (9th)	10
March	.71	.38 (29th.)	6
April	2.29	.44 (29th.)	16
May	2.12	.90 (18th.)	10
June	1.71	.44 (21st.)	12
July	2.92	.70 (30th.)	21
August	2.91	1.10 (29th.)	13
September	3.92	1.40 (21st.)	16
October	3.20	.67 (24th.)	12
November	1.71	.45 (8th.)	14
December	.95	.32 (30th.)	8
	<u>24.66</u>		<u>145</u>

This is the lowest recorded rainfall since the rain gauge was installed on 1st. July, 1928, the next lowest being in 1947 when the reading was 24.68 inches.

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 33.38 inches.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct	Nov	Dec.
Wet Days	3	7	4	14	9	8	17	9	13	7	9	5
Rain Days	4	3	2	2	1	4	4	4	3	5	5	3
Dry Days	24	18	25	14	21	18	10	18	14	19	16	23.

There was an absolute drought from 23rd. February to 25th. March inclusive, a partial drought from 6th. January to 7th. February inclusive, and a dry spell from 31st. July to 14th. August inclusive.

September was the wettest month. In the previous year August was the wettest month (6.64 inches) and July the driest (.31 inches).

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Undertaking has been owned by the Town Council since December 1947. The area served by the Calne Water Orders 1882 to 1938 includes the Municipal Borough and the Parish of Calne Without in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about three miles to the South-east of the town in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham. Whilst there is ample water at the source, it will be necessary at an early date to carry out certain works to collect springs not as yet available.

The water is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent and is chlorinated at the source.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)

The number of houses in the Borough still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 12 or 0.6 per centum of all the inhabited houses in the district. Three of these houses are beyond the existing water mains and of the others the wells have been subjected to analyses and have in general been passed as fit for potable purposes.

A piped supply to the Mile Elm District of Calne Without was completed during the year. So far it supplies 3 farms and 10 houses.

Upon the installation of a new meter recording the flow from the Water works at Calstone an alarming increase in the consumption of water was revealed. This was partly attributable to waste due to leakage from faulty service pipes and in two cases to fractured mains, etc. Some progress was made in efforts to reduce waste by discovering and repairing defects. Even now, the amount of water consumed in the town is greatly in excess of 1,050,000 gallons per week which is the amount the Town Council are authorised to take from the stream by the Calne Water Order, 1938. It will be necessary for the Council to obtain a new Order from the Minister increasing this amount by 50% or more.

During the year 20 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made. 7 samples were reported as showing no evidence of pollution, 8 very slight degree of non-faecal pollution, 3 moderate degree of non-faecal pollution, 1 sample (from lower springs) gross pollution with non-faecal organisms, and 1 sample very considerable pollution with both faecal and non-faecal organisms. This latter source was withdrawn from service immediately.

15 examinations were made of chlorinated water going into town supply and the results in all cases showed no evidence of bacteriological pollution.

There were a number of complaints of a shortage of supply from consumers at high parts of the town namely Wessington, Quemerford Common and Low Lane, and from consumers near the Works at Calstone. These complaints were investigated and remedied by:-

1. Repairing the fractured mains referred to above, and
2. increasing the pumping time by one hour.

The last chemical report on a sample of the town supply is as follows:-

Appearance: clear; very faint bluish tint when viewed in depth.

Reaction: pH 7.0

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Free Carbon Dioxide	39
Free & Saline Ammonia	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.03
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	12
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	20
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs)	0.22
Nitrite	absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate & Nitrite	2.1
Total Solids	398
Loss on ignition	23
Appearance on ignition	just perceptible charring
Hardness: Temporary	280
Permanent	49
	<u>329</u>
Lead & Copper	Absent
Zinc	Faint trace.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)

There are no street standpipes.

The total consumption per capita per diem is 45 gallons, estimated to be made up as follows: domestic 27, trade 6, waste 12.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

General. - Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered. Although there will always be, of necessity, a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into septic tanks, or are provided with earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1953 was 94, less than 5% of all the inhabited houses in the district. About one half of this number are outside the drainage area.

Outfall Sewer. - For some years the bad condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for over 70 years, has been a matter of some concern, particularly where it runs parallel with and close to the River Marden. A scheme for a new sewer on a fresh alignment has now been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers (Messrs. Harvey McGill and Hayes) and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for loan sanction. The estimated cost is £31,300.

The length of town sewers is approximately 9 miles to which must be added the length of the Outfall Sewer and effluent sewer from the Outfall Works to the river approximately 2 miles.

Sewage Disposal Works. - The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham, about 1½ miles to the North-west of the town, and were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000.

Nevertheless, with the continual growth of the town, the enlargement of the Works is under review as the average dry weather flow is three times the amount for which the works were originally designed, although the sewage is considerably diluted with infiltration water.

The Consulting Engineers are temporarily held up with their final designs because certain information is awaited from the Consulting Engineers of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. regarding the trade waste from their Bacon Curing Factory.

In considering the design of the Works the Council have also agreed in principle to the proposal to receive and treat the sewage from the villages of Studley and Derry Hill in the Rural District provided the scheme will not seriously affect the capital cost of the Works and subject to the Rural District Council laying their own mains and paying a yearly contribution to cover the cost.

Trade Effluent. - The Agreement for the treatment of trade waste between Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. and the Town Council terminated on the 31st. December, 1952 and discussions regarding a new agreement were still in hand at the close of 1953.

Final Effluent. - On the last sample of final effluent taken during the year (18th. December) the Analyst reports as follows:-

"This nearly complies with Royal Commission Standards and is not likely to be the cause of fish mortality" -

and following a visit to the Works on the 14th. December, the Analyst reports:-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (CONTINUED)

"The general condition of the Works themselves seemed satisfactory and the effluent analysis shows that a reasonable degree of purification is being attained."

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Town Council undertake the weekly collection of house refuse by direct labour and the work has been carried out without a single complaint during the year. The receptacles are placed at the kerb-side by the householder on the day of collection.

The Tip is at Calne Low about 1 mile to the east of the town in worked-out sandpits owned by Messrs. Bradley & Sons. The Tip is sprayed with D.D.T. liquid concentrate regularly each week during the summer months in order to combat the fly nuisance, and is regularly inspected and baited to prevent rat infestations.

SALVAGE.

A weekly collection of salvage has been in operation since June, 1940. The amount collected to date is 1,901 tons valued at £6,605. 9. 9., excluding Government Grants.

The actual tonnage for 1953 was 117 0.75 cwts. valued at £401. 18. 7 or a little less than a 2³/₄d. rate, a reduction of ³/₄d as compared with last year, mainly due to a drop in waste paper sales.

There are some 70 communal bins placed at strategic points throughout the district for the collection of kitchen waste which is sold in its raw state to National By-Products Ltd., and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant at Messrs. C.&T. Harris's By-Products factory in the Borough and retailed by them to local farmers.

This tonnage for the twelve months under review was 55 tons 16³/₄ cwts., representing in value about 52 per centum of the year's income. The amount collected during 1953 represents an increase of approximately 37 per centum over the previous year.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and steam sterilised at the above plant by the kind co-operation of Messrs. C.&T. Harris.

HOUSING.

The Town Council have erected 568 houses under the various Housing Acts since 1919 (including 4 at Quemerford taken over from the former Calne Rural District Council in the Borough extension of 1934 and two in the Pippin sold to owner/occupiers). Included in this number are 277 houses erected since 1945, of which 153 are of the traditional type and 84 are "Reema" permanent pre-fabricated type houses and 40 are "Reema" two bedroom flats.

The number of Council houses constructed and occupied during the present year was 21 traditional houses and 40 "Reema" 3-bedroom type houses.

During the year three more houses which were originally condemned as unfit in 1938 for human habitation have been permanently closed.

Of the five houses requisitioned under the Defence Regulations four have now been de-requisitioned, leaving one house, which is divided into three flats, still requisitioned.

HOUSING (Continued)

26 private enterprise houses have been completed, making 75 houses since 1945. 15 other private enterprise houses were under construction.

No applications for Improvement Grants were made under the Housing Act, 1949.

Statistics show that approximately 40 per centum of all the houses in the district are without a fixed bath. In other words, of the privately owned houses, only two houses in every five have such an amenity.

There are many houses in the district which are sub-standard in the light of present day requirements and for the majority of these demolition is the only answer, coupled with a comprehensive re-development scheme, although under legislation which is foreshadowed, the life of a number of these houses may be extended. With houses still in short supply wholesale demolition is out of the question, quite apart from the financial implications. There are also a number of houses approaching this category through unarrested decay. The high cost of materials, coupled with the price of labour, often cause the repair of properties which have fixed rents to be an uneconomical proposition for the owner. No person can afford to have outgoings continually in excess of income; consequently the Local Authority and its Public Health Officials are placed in an unenviable position.

As a matter of interest the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list for houses as at 31st. December was 255, showing a decrease of 43 as at the same period last year, so that actually the position is slightly improving.

Several cases of overcrowding were dealt with by the voluntary interchanging of Council houses tenancies, arranged through the Housing Officer, with the consent and encouragement of the Local Authority.

22 licences were issued for the erection of houses and bungalows to the value of £42,571. 15. 0.

RODENT CONTROL - Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

For this purpose the Council employ a part-time operator.

As usual the systematic treatment of sewers, refuse tip and other municipally owned property was carried out.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with. With the use of Warfarin it is no longer possible to estimate the number of rats killed.

Several large retail food stores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operator and close co-operation is maintained between all parties concerned.

RODENT CONTROL (Continued)

The following is a summary of the year's work.

No. of dwelling houses inspected as a result of
notification. 32

No. of business and industrial premises inspected
as a result of notification 6

No. of agricultural premises inspected as a result
of notification 2

No. of independent inspections made -

Local Authority properties.

Building 4
River banks, Roadside
verges etc. 33 37

Dwelling houses. 247
Business and Industrial 41
Agricultural 6

No. of properties found to be infested by rats. . .

Local Authority	Major Infestations	4
	Minor Infestations	1
	Major Infestations	2
Dwelling houses	Minor Infestations	51
	Major Infestations	5
Business & Industrial	Minor Infestations	7
	Major Infestations	4
Agricultural	Minor Infestations	1
	Major Infestations	1

No. of properties found to be seriously infested by
mice N I L

No. of infested properties treated by the
Local Authority -

Local Authority premises 5
Dwelling houses 53
Business & Industrial 10
Agricultural 4

It was not found necessary to serve any notices under
Section 4 of the Act, although warning letters were sent in
one or two instances.

The type of property in the district is as follows:-

Local Authority 5
Dwelling houses 1875
Agricultural 11
Business and Industrial 209

TOTAL:- 2100

RAG FLOCK.

The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, came into operation on 1st. November, 1951. The Act requires Upholsterers and others using filling materials to register their premises. Premises used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock must be licensed. The Act requires Local Authorities to inspect such premises from time to time and to sample the filling materials found thereon.

Only one firm is registered in the District.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into operation on the 1st. April, 1952, and requires the licensing of pet shops.

One such shop is licensed in the district.

LETHAL CHAMBER.

An electric cabinet has been placed at the Wharf and came into operation on the 7th. July.

The number of animals destroyed up to the end of the year was:-

43 cats
19 dogs

The equipment was supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and is housed on Corporation property and manipulated by Corporation employees.

This destruction centre has been established for the purpose of putting cats and dogs to sleep which belong to owners who cannot afford to pay veterinary surgeons' fees.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

General - Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold, or intended for sale for human consumption and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air came into operation on the 18th. day of September, 1950.

DOGS.

As recent investigations have shown that certain diseases may be conveyed by dogs, all owners of food shops have been asked to display a notice on their premises advising the public in the following terms. "In the interest of hygiene you are requested not to bring your dog into premises on which food is sold. (signed) C.L. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health".

MEAT

Since 7th. May, 1943, all slaughtering of animals for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham. There is a part-time Veterinary Inspector employed at the Local Bacon Factory who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 6. They are all employed at Messrs. C.&T. Harris' Bacon Factory whose slaughterhouse is now the only one licensed in the District under Section 57 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

MEAT (Continued).

The handling of meat during transport at times leaves something to be desired, although recently the men employed appear to be more conscientious.

There are two holders of Game Licences.

The amount of meat condemned by the Sanitary Inspector in the town was as follows:-

4 portions of hind quarter of beef;
16 lbs. of hind quarter of steer;
1 shoulder of English Lamb.

FISH

There are three retailers of fresh fish and three fried fish establishments in the district. The supply has been fair throughout the year and the trade is carried on satisfactorily.

MILK.

Under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Council is responsible for the registration of dairies, other than dairy farms, and registration of milk distributors. They are also responsible, under these regulations, for the provisions relating to the conveyance and distribution of milk outside dairy farms (Sections 8, 11-14 and 18-31).

Other enactments affecting dairying are mainly, but not entirely, to be found in the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries is responsible for seeing that the regulations relating to the production and handling of milk on dairy farms are observed, together with the issue or suspension and revocation of producers' licences and appeals arising therefrom.

Two retailers hold Dealers' Bottling Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" and one retailer has a Dealers' Retailing Licence to use the designations "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested" milk, which is bottled in a neighbouring district.

There are three retailers of milk resident outside the district.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term to the Secondary Modern, Secondary Grammar, C. of E. Junior, Guthrie Infant and Holy Trinity C. of E. Junior schools in the town.

14 samples of milk were taken from local retailers for bacteriological examination, of which 13 were found to be satisfactory.

In every case, with one exception, all milk is produced outside the district but retailed within the town area, and no other points have arisen to which special attention need be drawn. The County Council as Food & Drug Authority for the County Area, with the exception of the Boro' of Swindon, is responsible for granting licences to pasteurisers and sterilisers, or their refusal, suspension and revocation and appeals thereunder as the case may be.

ICE-CREAM.

17 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. There are no premises registered for manufacture as well as for sale.

The supplies to retailers are pre-wrapped.

OTHER FOODS.

During the year 620 tins, bottles or jars, etc. of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, faulty cappings, etc.

The food shops and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith. The number of food premises in the district is 33, although in some cases more than one trade is carried on - for instance, there are three Bakers and Grocers, three Fishmongers and Greengrocers, etc.

The various businesses are as follows:-

Bakers.	3
Confectioners	4
Cafes.	3
Butchers.	7
Pork Butcher and Preserved Foods. . .	1
Fishmongers.	3
Fried Fish Shops . .	3
Grocers.	11
Greengrocers	5

Total:- 40

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, is 20 and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 is 2.

The number of inspections of registered food premises during the year was 45.

All condemned food is either destroyed by incineration or in some cases, returned to the suppliers for evidence of unfitness.

All examinations are in connection with the retail trade and no bulk stores of food exist in the district.

SHOPS

No statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1950

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1938.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act, with respect to the matters under Parts I and VIII which are administered by the District Council.

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspect-ions	Written Notices	Prosec-utions.
1. Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	-	12	-	-
2. Factories not in-cluded in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	47	8	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is en-forced by L.A. (ex-cluding Out-Workers' premises.)	-	3	-	-
TOTAL:-	47	23	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Cases in which defects found.				Pros- ec't'ns.
	Found	Remedied to HM Insp.	By HM Insp.		
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>SANITARY</u>					
<u>CONVENIENCES.</u>					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Out-Work	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	5	5	-	-	-

One outworker is registered under Section 110
- Homework.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of the year's work under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Dwelling houses inspected	247
Re-inspections and visits	327
Inspections for housing records	26
Registered and Licensed premises inspected.	13

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT (Continued)

Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	114
Complaints received and inspected	71

The tabulated list of major improvements is as follows:-

Number of samples of final effluent taken at Sewage Disposal Works.	6
Number of samples of Tank effluent taken at Sewage Disposal Works.	3
Number of samples of raw spring water for bacteriological examination.	20
Number of samples of chlorinated water for bacteriological examination - town supply.	15
Number of new houses connected to main drainage system .	89
Number of new houses connected to main water supply . .	89
Number of existing houses connected to main drainage system	2
New drain lengths constructed and tested	101
Drain obstructions W.C. obstructions cleared).	32
New W.C.s constructed to existing houses	2
W.C. pans repaired or renewed.	20
New sinks, baths or lavatory basins fixed to existing houses.	12
Houses disinfected	5
Houses redecorated internally.	2
Floors repaired or renewed.	14
Roofs repaired or renewed	64
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	9
External walls repaired.	3
Walls replastered.	6
Ceilings repaired or replastered	16
Rain-water pipes or gutters cleared, repaired or renewed.	47
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed.	139
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed.	37
Minor repairs and miscellaneous	924

RODENT CONTROL.

Dwelling houses inspected	279
Business premises inspected	47
Agricultural premises inspected.	8
Local Authority premises inspected	37
Infestations reported	40
Infestations discovered	35
Number of visits	1079

